

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of Claims

1-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Currently amended) A process for treating textile fibers consisting of:

(1) mild washing of said fibers at a temperature of less than or equal to about 40°C, with an aqueous composition comprising:

(a) a compound of formula (II):

~~The process of claim 36, wherein, the aqueous composition contains a compound of formula:~~



wherein R'', independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH₂-S-SO₃M and SO₃M, and, wherein, at least one R'' is a sulfur-containing group, AO, independently of each other, represents C₂H₄O-, C₃H₆O- or C₄H₈O-, the indices x, y and z, independently of one another, are 0 or their sum has a value of from 1 to 500, M is a cation having at least one charge, ~~and wherein if provided that when any of x, y or z is zero, its corresponding substituent R'' is a hydrogen atom;~~

(b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of textile fiber cleaning surfactants and textile fiber softening agents; and
(c) water; and

(2) drying said textile fibers;

wherein the treated fibers exhibit reduced pilling.

38-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, in formula (II) the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 10 to 100.

47. (Currently amended) The process of claim 37, wherein, the sum of $x + y + z$ is a number of from 30 50 to 80 500.

48. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_2H_4O .

49. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively C_3H_6O .

50. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

51-52. (Cancelled).

53. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously presented) The process of claim 37 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.